

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A [connector] connection assembly for connecting two medium-voltage electrical power cables, each power cable including at least one conductor surrounded by an insulative jacket, said connection assembly having a connector comprising:

tubular contacts adapted to connect together stripped ends of said conductors inserted into said tubular contacts and retained in said tubular contacts by means of screws, said screws directly contacting said stripped ends of said conductors; and

at one end at least, extension means, formed as a rigid annular flange extending away from the periphery of said connector, unitarily constructed with said connector and adapted to cover a portion of said insulative jacket of said cable over a length greater than 10mm.

2. (currently amended) The [connector] connection assembly claimed in claim 1 wherein said covering means cover said insulative jacket over a length from 10mm to 20mm.

3. (currently amended) The [connector] connection assembly claimed in claim 1 wherein said extension means have rounded free ends.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) The [connector] connection assembly claimed in claim 11 wherein said extension means comprise a flexible semiconductor rubber skirt fixed to the periphery of said connector.
7. (previously presented) A connection between two medium-voltage electrical power cables each including at least one conductor as claimed in claim 1, surrounded by an insulative jacket, said connection including an insulative sheath adapted to cover intimately at least said connector.
8. (currently amended) The [connection] connection assembly claimed in claim 7 wherein the space between said connector and said insulative jacket of the corresponding cable is filled with a layer of insulative mastic.
9. (currently amended) The [connection] connection assembly claimed in claim 8 wherein the space between said layer of insulative mastic and each screw is filled with conductive mastic.

10. (currently amended) The [connection] connection assembly claimed in claim 8 wherein the space between said layer of insulative mastic and each screw is filled by a semiconductor material cap.

11. (currently amended) A connection assembly [connector] for connecting two medium-voltage electrical power cables, each power cable including at least one conductor surrounded by an insulative jacket, said connection assembly having a connector comprising:

tubular contacts adapted to connect together stripped ends of said conductors inserted into said tubular contacts and retained in said tubular contacts by means of screws, said screws directly contacting said stripped ends of said conductors; and

at one end at least, extension means are adapted to cover a portion of said insulative jacket of said cable over a length greater than 10mm, wherein said connector has a recessed notch such that when said extension means is attached to said connector at said recessed notch, said connector and said extension means form a continuous smooth intersection with one another and that is continuous with the outer diameter of the connector.

12. (currently amended) The [connector] connection assembly claimed in claim 6 wherein said flexible semiconductor rubber skirt has an internal diameter less than that of said insulative jacket of said power cable being inserted into said

connector.

13. (new) A connection assembly for connecting two medium-voltage electrical power cables, each power cable including at least one conductor surrounded by an insulative jacket, each said connection assembly having a connector comprising:

tubular contacts adapted to connect together stripped ends of said conductors inserted into said tubular contacts and retained in said tubular contacts by means of screws, said screws directly contacting said stripped ends of said conductors; and

at one end at least, extension means extending from the periphery of said connector adapted to cover a portion of said insulative jacket of said cable over a length greater than 10mm, wherein said extension means is a flexible semiconductor rubber skirt, such that when said power cables are placed in said connector, said extension means remain fixed to and located over only a portion of and near the periphery of said connector.